

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claim 3.

Claim 1 (previously presented): A composition comprising flaky α -alumina particles having an average major diameter of 2.0 to 25 μm , an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.2 μm , an aspect ratio, expressed by average major diameter / average thickness, of 55 to 2000, wherein the particles are produced by employing a source material that will introduce phosphate ions and will result in a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, wherein the weight of the phosphoric compound used is expressed by weight in terms of P_2O_5 .

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ~~flaky α -alumina particles~~ composition according to claim 1, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

Claims 4-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (previously presented): A cosmetic composition comprising flaky α -alumina particles having an average major diameter of 2.0 to 25 μm , an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.2 μm , and an aspect ratio, expressed by average major diameter / average thickness, of 55 to 2000, wherein the particles are produced by employing a source material that will introduce phosphate ions and will result in a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, wherein the weight of the phosphoric compound used is expressed by weight in terms of P_2O_5 .

Claim 7 (previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 6, in which the flaky α -alumina particles have an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1 μm and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of the particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in the minor axis, of 1.0 to 15 μm .

Claim 8 (previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 6, wherein the flaky α -alumina particles are present in an amount of 1% to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the cosmetic.

Claims 9-11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 6, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.